



Background

- Born May 7, 1932 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- One of five children, and only son, of Italian immigrants
- Worked in father's wholesale grocery business
- Graduated 1950 from St. Mary's High School, Albuquerque
- Earned education degree, University of New Mexico, 1954
- Pitched for Albuquerque Dukes — a farm club for the old Brooklyn Dodgers, 1954
- Left baseball to become math teacher at Garfield Junior High in Albuquerque, 1955
- Earned law degree, University of Denver, 1958
- Returned to Albuquerque, entered private practice, 1958
- Married the former Nancy Burk, 1958
- Domenici's have eight children - two sons and six daughters

Political Experience

- Domenici elected to Albuquerque City Commission, 1966
- Elected Commission Chairman (equivalent then to Mayor), 1967
- First Republican in 38 years in New Mexico to be elected to U.S. Senate, 1972

- With re-election in 1996, Domenici became the first New Mexican elected to serve five full six-year terms in the Senate.

Committees

Committee on the Budget

Chairman

Committee on Appropriations

- Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Chairman
- Subcommittee on Commerce, State, Justice
- Subcommittee on Defense
- Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

- Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation, Vice Chairman
- Subcommittee on Forest and Public Land Management

Committee on Governmental Affairs

Committee on Indian Affairs

Overheard

"...Mr. Domenici enjoys a universal reputation as one of the Senate's hardest working, most intelligent and most intense members." — New York Times, May 1995

"New Mexico is extremely fortunate to have a man of the stature of Sen. Pete Domenici representing us in the U.S. Senate. Sen. Domenici is extremely intelligent and articulate... He has common sense and as the saying goes, that is very uncommon today, and especially so in Washington." — Alamogordo Daily News, February 1996

"Sen. Domenici is one of America's premiere lawmakers and statesmen. His work on the federal budget, both as a minority and majority senator, has been exemplary — as is most of his routine performance." — Santa Fe New Mexican, February 1996

"Domenici has proven himself a skilled, tireless and resilient legislator... He has brought together disparate interests under a common banner and proved himself a true legislative craftsman." — National Journal, June 1995

"If ever there was a time when there was a confluence of fiscal restraint and political circumstances to accomplish a balanced budget, you couldn't have a better man than Pete Domenici in a position to get it done." — Howard Baker, National Journal, June 1995

"He's more interested in seeing that the right things get done and the wrong things get stopped than he is in pursuing some rigid conservative ideology." — Albuquerque Tribune, November 1994

Accomplishments

Pete Domenici is recognized as one of the nation's foremost experts on the federal budget and its impact on the economy. Resuming chairmanship of the Senate Budget Committee in 1995, Domenici has led through the Congress a historic effort to balance the federal budget and restore fiscal responsibility. The Senator firmly believes the Congress must erase the monumental federal debt if New Mexicans and all Americans are to be assured a healthy future full of opportunity.

A son of immigrants, Domenici is dedicated to the strengthening of New Mexico's economy. He has a proven record of protecting existing jobs while working to cultivate new business opportunities and jobs for New Mexicans.

He created the New Mexico Small Business Advocacy Council in 1993 to identify and to correct burdensome federal regulations that hinder business growth and job creation. He has worked to secure federal funding to foster business ownership opportunities for women and minorities. In addition, he continues to work to attract more private-sector investment on New Mexico's Indian reservations, while maintaining a federal commitment to American Indian health, education and infrastructure improvement on these lands.

In the post-Cold War age, Domenici has reinforced his commitment to New Mexico's national laboratories and other high technology research facilities. As chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the Department of Energy, the Senator has worked to bolster the evolving mission of the national laboratories from weapons research and production to stewardship over the nation's existing nuclear weapons stockpile. Since the 1989 passage of his bill to promote technology transfer from the national laboratories to the private sector, Domenici has promoted alliances of business, government and education that secure existing jobs and develop new employment opportunities.

Domenici and Georgia Senator Sam Nunn in 1995 introduced income tax reform legislation to abolish the current income tax code and replace it with a system that rewards savings and investment. Crafted over four years of research, Domenici believes the Unlimited Savings Allowance Tax (USA Tax), when combined with a balanced budget, will restore fiscal responsibility and boost each American's earning potential.

Domenici has made a priority of promoting the grassroots effort called "Character Counts" in New Mexico and on the national front. The Character Counts initiative strives to promote in all aspects of American life six basic pillars of good character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship). The author of congressional National Character Counts Week resolutions, Domenici has actively worked to support New Mexico schools and communities that have embraced this initiative.

Domenici has consistently supported balanced environmental initiatives to preserve our natural resources while permitting their most efficient use. He has consistently introduced legislation to protect natural resources in New Mexico, including the bill that created the Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque in 1990.

Domenici created a task force to protect the Rio Grande bosque. The Senator has facilitated a federal, state and local working partnership to address concerns about the long-term availability of water in the Middle Rio Grande Aquifer. To this end, he has also secured funding to begin an extensive study of the water resources in New Mexico's most populous region.

New Mexico's senior Senator is a strong advocate of energy independence, encouraging the development of the domestic oil and natural gas industries, while calling for a reduction in the country's reliance on foreign sources of energy.

An outspoken advocate for people with mental disorders, Domenici has worked to end health coverage discrimination against the severely mentally ill. In 1992, he successfully gained congressional passage of a bill to restore Defense Department benefits for abused military spouses and children who would have otherwise been deprived of those benefits. He has authored legislation to double federal support for primary health care facilities in predominantly rural areas.

Domenici is a strong proponent of science and science research, and has a strong record of support for such projects as human genome research, a national effort to improve existing genetic maps to determine the complete sequence of the DNA sub-units in the human genome. The undertaking is expected to lead to a cure for a myriad of human illnesses.